



August/September 2003

## Canals Connect Us!

*Broward waterways link people and environment*

When most people think of Broward County, they picture sunny beaches, big boats and densely developed cities and suburban areas dotted with homes, shopping centers and golf courses. Few realize that just beyond the bustling cities' westernmost levee lies much of the remnant Everglades, a vast wetland ecosystem that encompasses more than 75% of the county's total land area. An extensive series of canals and waterways connect these man-made and natural habitats.

Effective partnerships among the South Florida Water Management District, the county, city governments, local water control districts, community groups and businesses help ensure that the county retains both its natural values and its allure as a popular destination.

### WATER SUPPLY PLANNING

District staff work closely with the county in support of its leadership role in developing and implementing the Broward County Integrated Water

Resource Plan (IWRP). This critical program takes a comprehensive view – exclusive of municipality or service area boundaries – of existing and proposed



*In portions of Broward County, the Sawgrass Expressway separates the county's westernmost developments from the Everglades.*

water supply needs and sources, for today and the future. The goal is to increase the efficiency and utilization of local rainfall and infrastructure in order to reduce dependency on regional supplies and to help minimize future water shortages. Broward has been recognized by the National Association of Counties for its achievements in this innovative planning arena.

### IMPROVING FLOOD CONTROL

South Florida's wet season started early this year, bringing unusually heavy rains to Fort Lauderdale, Oakland Park, Margate and North Lauderdale in late May. The District and local governments quickly assessed the problem areas and mobilized the needed equipment to lessen the impact of these early, torrential storms. Communication and coordination are key to responding to these emergency situations.

To provide a regional perspective on drainage issues in western Broward County, the C-11 Basin Consortium includes local elected officials, local water control districts, interested citizens and the District. Over the past two years, the Consortium successfully acquired \$350,000 to study the basin and identify problem areas. The funds are being used for a pump study, to install monitoring telemetry and to develop a model of Southern Broward County. The results from these studies will be used in conjunction with data provided by the

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